

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

20301 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

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Contact: Chris Mackey Office: (919) 733-5612

Gov. Perdue Announces Contract for I-85 Improvement Project -- \$55 million Cheaper, Five Months Earlier Than Projected

First Mobility Fund project will create or sustain 150 jobs, make travel more efficient

RALEIGH — Standing at the construction site for the new Yadkin River bridges, Gov. Bev Perdue today announced that the N.C. Department of Transportation has awarded a contract for phase two of the I-85 Corridor Improvement Project in Davidson County.

The \$65.5 million project will widen 3.8 miles of the interstate to eight lanes and update the Belmont Road interchange, which will make travel and commerce more efficient while creating new jobs for North Carolinians.

"Without the <u>Mobility Fund</u>, we would not have the money needed to pay for this critically important project," Gov. Perdue said. "Phase two will make this heavily used stretch of I-85 last longer while helping people and goods more easily reach their destinations."

NCDOT awarded the contract for phase two to Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Inc./Austin Bridge and Road LP, A Joint Venture of Irving, Texas. The joint-venture team estimates that the project will create or sustain about 150 jobs. Many of those workers will be hired locally.

Good news:

• This is the first project funded by Gov. Perdue's <u>Mobility Fund</u>. Phase two exemplifies the type of greatly needed transportation projects of regional or statewide significance that the <u>Mobility Fund</u> will make a reality.